

VESTIGES of Lands End

Architecture of Sutro Baths

The Sutro Baths were one of San Francisco's iconic architectural marvels. Their distinctive appearance resulted from a fusion of classical styling and modern engineering technology, combining classic Greek ornamental elements with the exposed steel columns and wooden trusses of the pools' glass roof.

The building's architectural design was created as a result of several competitions offered by Adolph Sutro in 1890 and 1891. The firm of Colley & Lemme -- designers of the Victorian Cliff House -- won the final design award. Sutro himself engineered the operations of the baths.

In 1934 famed architect Harold G. Stoner redesigned the front entrance with a tropical art deco theme.

The Sutro Baths were an impressive architectural wonder not only in style and artistic detail, but also because of their sheer size. The building stood almost 500 feet long and 254 feet wide and was able to hold up to 10,000 people.



Image courtesy of Glenn D. Koch



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Top: Exterior of Baths showing Grecian front entrance; *Bottom:* Interior of baths, ca. 1890s.